

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, March 26, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, March 26, 1838.

My dear sir, Your private letter of the 11th instant is just received, that of the 24th of February came to hand in due course of mail.

I feel greatly indebted to you for the detail of the late debate between Mr. Clay and Mr. Calhoun in the Senate.¹ The public ought to have a faithful report of the speeches as delivered, for you must recollect the old adage, "When rogues fall out, truth is revealed, and honest men get justice". I have no doubt but it was an interesting scene to the audience. I hope there were no interference, they are well matched, and ought to be let alone to worry each other. . . .

¹ Speeches on the Independent Treasury bill, on Feb. 15 by Calhoun, on Feb. 29 by Clay, and on Mar. 10 by both, marked the final separation between the two.

I have regained more strength in the last three days than in weeks before. I now hope to live to see the Government divorced, a *mensa* and *thora*, from all Banks—then, and only then, can we hope for purity of Legislation either in the general or state governments. rest assured that it is the only balm left to purify the morals of the people from the corrupting money power, that from the multiplicity of Banks, and its depreciated paper, and fictitious credit system that remains with the general government—it must be adopted or our republican system will be destroyed.

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Your views of Rives and Talmage perfectly accords with mine. The last session of my administration I saw in his Mr. Rives cameleon deposit bill symptoms that I did not like, but still had a hope that he had been duped into his then position, and that he would relieve himself from it, but he became ambitious, jelous of Col Benton, and the vain thought arose to his mind that by heading a third party it could hold the power, and by joining the opposition, that the federal feeling was so hostile to Mr. VanBuren that they would take him, *as their second choice*. ?What weakness this, as well as wickedness. he ought to have recollected, that while they accepted of the benefits of the Treason, they would despise the Treator. Yes, poor old judge Whites, and Aaron Burrs, fate will be his, and ought to have been before his eyes, but who god wills for distruction he first maketh *mad*. Rives premature ambition has destroyed him. . . .